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DR. CROSSLAND HOME

FROM MONROVIA AFRICA AFTER A YEARS SOJOURN

A Review of his Career in this Country and in Liberia—He Opposes Emigration to Africa and is not Hopeful of its Future—The Incident which Lead to his Recall—Notes.

Hon. J. R. A. Crossland who is shortly to retire from the office of United States Minister to Liberia, paid a visit to Washington, which was partly of an official nature, but more largely to come once more into social contact with his many friends and admirers at the Capital. The Doctor is still a young man, capable, high-spirited and of elevated ideals. He was born just thirty-eight years ago in the State of South Carolina. His early education was obtained in the schools of his native city and it was supplemented by full courses, both academic and professional. He took high rank at each institution which he attended. After serving for a brief period as Assistant Postmaster in his native state, he was appointed Principal of the Palmetto School at Palatka, Fla. His brilliant attainments and sound scholarship as well as his wonderful organizing talent almost at once attracted the attention of the school authorities, and within a year of his arrival at Palatka, he was made Superintendent of the City Schools for colored youth at that place.

The role of village schoolmaster was however, little to the Doctor's taste as a life work. He knew himself capable of a larger growth, and confident that amid the scenes of a more rapid and strenuous civilization, and under more generous skies his ambition would find its fuller fruition, he left the enervating if charming climate of the land of flowers and threw down the gauntlet at the feet of fame and fortune, in the city of St. Joseph, Mo. Here his professional career began and slowly but surely his skill, his profound knowledge of medicine, his unfailing courtesy and his probity and high personal character won the favor of the community and their patronage. It is easy to understand how such a man who had so thoroughly acquired the confidence of his fellow citizens, should with or without his consent soon find himself prominent in political affairs. The party in Missouri has delighted to honor him in every way. In municipal, state and national party councils, he has been an important and potential factor, developing in the various campaigns in which his aid has been freely given, an eloquence of oratory, and lucidity of style unequalled only by the cogency of his argument and the unanswerable character of his facts.

When President Roosevelt came to consider who should be sent as Minister to Liberia, Dr. Crossland was at once declared the logical candidate for the position. His competitors retired

MEN OF THE HOUR



DR. J. R. A. CROSSLAND.
Late U. S. Minister to Monrovia, West Africa.

from the contest almost without striking a blow when his candidacy was announced. His appointment was the very highest possible certificate of honorable living. During the period of his diplomatic service he enjoyed the most cordial relations with the President and the other officials of the Liberian Government, and was upon terms of the very closest official and personal intimacy with all the diplomatic and consular representatives accredited to Liberia by the other great countries of the world. Exceptional courtesies were always extended to him at every public and private function, not only on account of his high mission, but as well because of his many personal attractions and his wonderful facility in making personal friends, and in the happier faculty of retaining them. Many distorted and absurd reports have reached the United States touching Dr. Crossland's attitude in an unfortunate affair in Monrovia with which he was connected. The Colored American has had access to all the correspondence touching the matter. His conduct in the matter was only such as a gentleman, a diplomat, and a man of honor should have exhibited. Indeed the Doctor's forbearance and spirit of forgiveness excites our surprise and admiration.

So convinced was the Liberian Government that Dr. Crossland's conduct was in self-defense and perfectly justifi-

able that it refused point blank to withdraw his Exequatur, which as is well known, is a government's expression of its satisfaction with the personal acceptability of the representative of another government sent to it, and which is always issued as a prerequisite to the reception of a foreign minister or consul. His return to this country has been signalized by the most cordial treatment by the State Department. In addition to his official reports much valuable information has been brought by the Doctor touching political and social conditions in the Liberian Republic, and the officials of the State Department have been much impressed by them; so much that the Doctor has been in terms exonerated from any blame in this matter, and informed that he will be continued as Minister and on leave until far into the month of May. Dr. Crossland continues to stand high also both with the President and his advisers, constitutional and political, and his political future is even now practically a matter for his own decision. This is as it should be. The race cannot afford to forego the services of such well equipped leaders as Dr. Crossland, and it will not permit them to leave its service especially at a time when great principles are to be maintained and the malevolent forces of the race's enemies are in battle ar-

INTERESTING FACTS

THE RECORDS OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT

Items Which Reveal the Doings of the Nation's Household—The Population—Colored and White and the Ratio of Increase—Wedding Bells and Death Knells—Notes.

The reports of the various branches of the municipal government for the last fiscal year are more comprehensive and interesting than ever and the data given is of general interest.

The report of the Health Office gives a list of all the physicians who are legally entitled to practice in the District, the total number being 1,178. The official register of dentists carries 458 names; that of the undertakers, 130; while the number of licensed midwives is 134.

In many of the items in the report, there are separate statistics of the white and colored, the figures among other things showing that there are more than ten thousand more colored females than colored males here. From July to January 8, when the Health Office ceased to keep an official record, there were 838 white and 374 colored marriages. The total number of births last year was, 4,761, of which number 2,904 were white and 1,857 colored. Under the list of illegitimate births 111 were white and 468 colored. Of the deaths, 3,259 were among the whites and 2,688 among the colored; a total of 5,947. Of the mortality of children under five years with the whites the estimate was 44 per thousand and for the colored 123 in the same number.

Speaking of the high death rate among the colored, the report says:

"The colored population of this District represents to a large extent those engaged in severe manual labor, often under conditions involving undue exertion and great exposure to inclement weather."

And again, "It is believed that the high death rate among our colored people, while possibly due in part to the comparatively recent transplantation of the race to this country, is due largely to defects of constitution produced by long continued insanitary living and by attacks on such susceptible constitutions by insanitary living at the present time."

Thirty-five diseases are named as being responsible for most of the deaths of people of African descent, ranging from consumption with 399 cases, to alcoholism and delirium tremens with a total of 1, the statement being made that the whites are much more prone to deaths from this latter cause than are the colored. Rickets disease caused the death of 1 white child to 29 colored, while out

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